

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 10290

PARIS FOR USOECD; BRUSSELS FOR USEEC; BELGRADE FOR USDEL
CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, EGEN, EWWT, ELTN, GW, UR
SUBJECT: ECONADS: FRG TRANSPORT MINISTER'S VISIT TO MOSCOW

1. AT OCTOBER 20 ECONADS GERMAN REP REPORTED ON OCTOBER
3-7 VISIT OF FRG TRANSPORT EXPERTS TO MOSCOW UNDER THE
LEADERSHIP OF MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
KURT GSCHIEDLE, DESCRIBED AS A KICK-OFF AT POLITICAL LEVEL
TO LATER EXPERTS LEVEL MEETINGS IN THE FIELD. GSCHIEDLE'S
INTERLOCUTERS INCLUDED THE SOVIET MINISTERS FOR CIVIL
AVIATION, COMMUNICATIONS, MARITIME FLEET AND RAILWAYS.

2. AMONG THE PROBLEMS RAISED BY THE GERMAN SIDE WERE
"DUMPING" RATES USED BY SOVIET SHIPPING, MIXED SOVIET-
GERMAN SHIPPING COMPANIES, THE LACK OF RETURN CARGOS FOR
GERMAN ROAD TRANSPORT TO THE USSR, AND THE HIGH SOVIET
ROAD FEES LEVIED ON GERMAN TRUCKING. (THE GERMAN ECONAD
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MENTIONED THAT THE SOVIETS CHARGE THE EQUIVALENT OF DM 1000
FOR GERMAN TRUCKS BETWEEN THE POLISH BORDER AND MOSCOW
AND RETURN, COMPARED TO DM 58 PER DAY CHARGED BY THE FRG
FOR SOVIET TRUCKS IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC) SINCE THEY
SOUGHT TO KEEP THE MEETINGS ON A POSITIVE TONE THE GERMANS
MADE NO HINTS OF POSSIBLE COUNTERMEASURES BY THE FRG
AGAINST THE PROBLEMS RAISED.

3. THE FRG ALSO SOUGHT TO SHIFT CONSIDERATION OF SPECIFIC TRANSPORT ISSUES FROM SPECIALIST FORA TO A MORE GENERAL ECONOMIC PLANE, AND HOPED TO HAVE THEM TAKEN UP AT THE GERMAN-SOVIET BILATERAL ECONOMIC COMMISSION MEETING NEXT MAY. THEY RECOGNIZED THAT THIS MIGHT BE DIFFICULT FOR THE SOVIETS SINCE SOVIET PARTICIPANTS IN THE COMMISSION MIGHT BE UNWILLING TO ATTEMPT TO SPEAK FOR OR COMMIT SPECIALIST MINISTERIES UNREPRESENTED THERE.

4. THE GERMAN ECONAD ALSO DREW ATTENTION TO A RECENT SPEECH TO THE SUPREME SOVIET (DATE NOT SPECIFIED) BY THE MINISTER FOR MARITIME FLEET, IN WHICH THE MINISTER REPORTED THAT THERE WERE 24 SOVIET "MIXED COMPANIES" IN THE MARITIME TRANSPORT FIELD IN 19 SEPARATE COUNTRIES, SUGGESTING THAT THIS PRACTICE WOULD CONTINUE AND EVEN EXPAND RATHER THAN CONTRACT. THE MINISTER INDICATED THAT THE USSR PLANNED TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL SHIPS CONSTRUCTED IN THE WEST, LARGELY ON A COMPENSATION BASIS (TO ADD TO THE 35 CARGO SHIPS OF THIS NATURE, TOTALING 1.1 MILLION TONS, ALREADY IN SERVICE). GLITMAN

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